



MAR.

NO. 66

CHALLENGERS

OF THE

UNKNOWN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



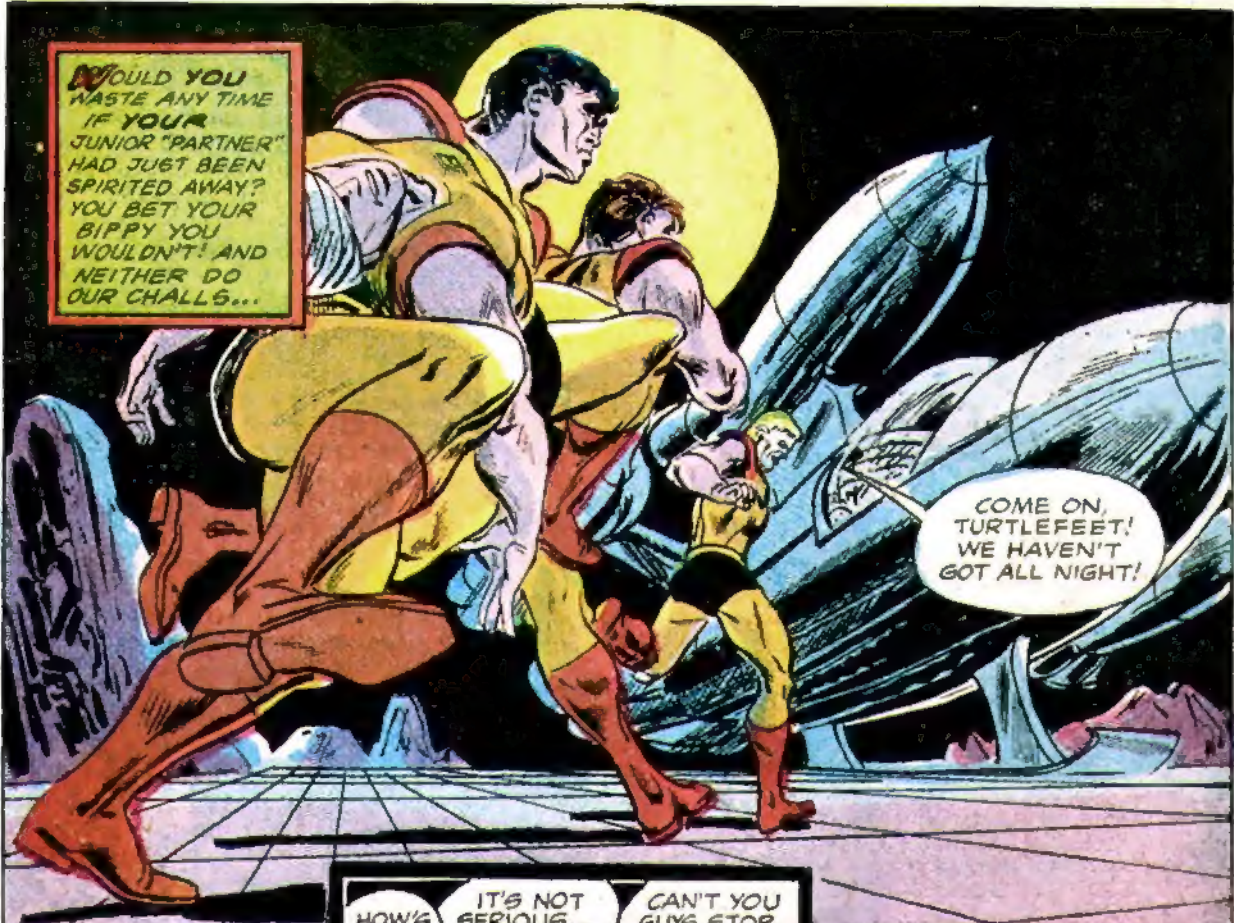
AUTHORITY

12¢



RENDEZVOUS
WITH
REVENGE!

**WOULD YOU
WASTE ANY TIME
IF YOUR
JUNIOR "PARTNER"
HAD JUST BEEN
SPIRITED AWAY?
YOU BET YOUR
BIPPY YOU
WOULDN'T! AND
NEITHER DO
OUR CHALLS...**

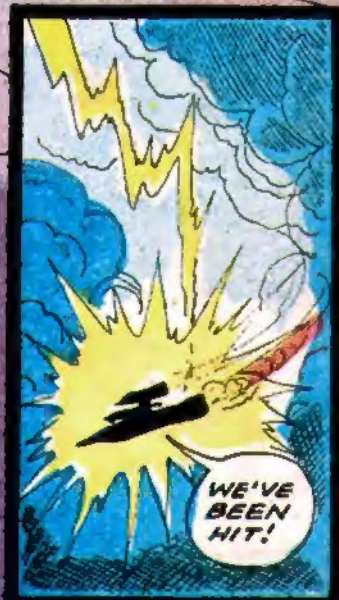


**HOW'S
THE
SIDE,
RED?**

**IT'S NOT
SERIOUS...
BUT THAT
DAME WYCKER
SURE WASN'T
KIDDING
WITH THAT
SCALPEL!**

**CAN'T YOU
GUYS STOP
ALL THAT
YAKKING?
I'VE GOT
TO FLY
THIS PLANE!**

**NOW, YOU
GOT OUR
PLAN OF
ACTION
DOWN
PAT--?**



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WE PROMISED A STRIKING, SMASHING SEQUEL A WHILE BACK THAT HAD TO BE DELAYED BECAUSE OF TWO SLIGHTLY STUPENDOUS STORIES INVOLVING OUR CHALLS IN CRITICAL SITUATIONS THAT COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL TINO WAS RESCUED.

SO HERE IT IS-- BROUGHT UP TO DATE FOR THE UNINITIATED WHO MISSED THAT EMOTION-PACKED EPIC...

"RENDEZVOUS WITH REVENGE!"

ART BY: JACK SPARLING
STORY BY: MIKE FRIEDRICH



THEN RED RUSHED TO HIS BROTHER'S AID...



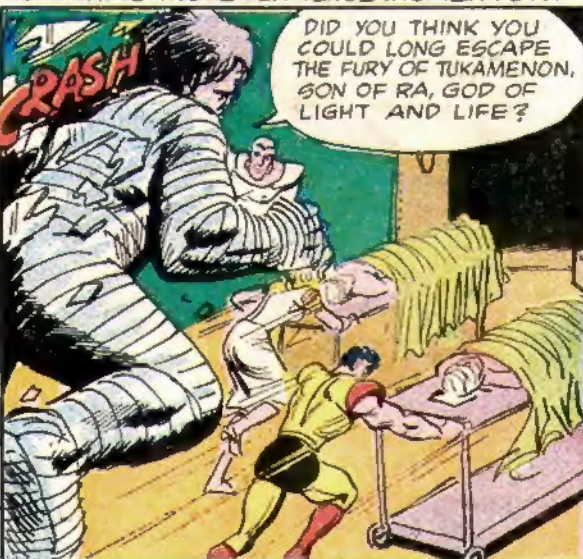
AFTER A WILD RIDE TO THE HOSPITAL...



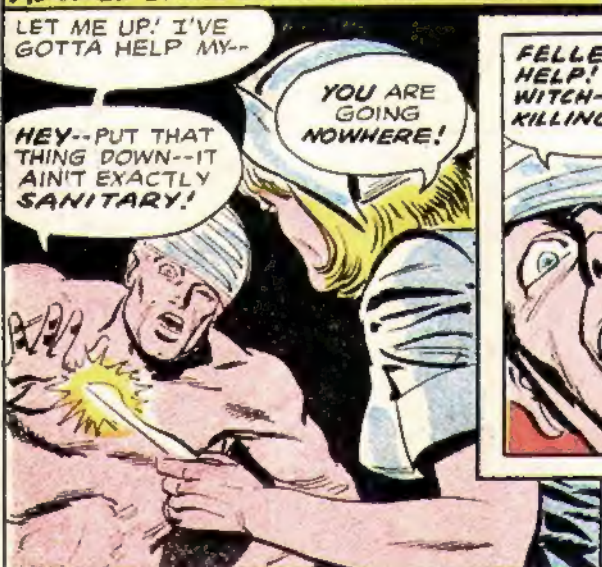
AGONIZING, SWEATING HOURS LATER...



BUT DURING THOSE FEW TENSE MOMENTS...



ALARMED BY THE DIN IN THE NEXT ROOM...



FORCED TO FREE THE Foe THEY HAD SUBDUED, THE CHALLENGERS RUSHED TO RED'S RESCUE...



AND I'VE GOT TO COME WITH YOU--I-
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN LEAD YOU
TO THEM!

THE MEMORIES CEASE AS THE SCREAMING
REALITY OF THE PRESENT OVERWHELMS THEM...

OUR EYES ARE
STILL LINKED
EVEN THROUGH
THE SPACE
THAT DIVIDES
US! I CAN
SEE EVERY-
THING
TINO DOES!



GOTTA PULL
UP--CAN'T
LET IT
HAPPEN--
AGAIN--



WHEW! NEXT TIME
DON'T WAIT UNTIL
THE LAST SECOND
BEFORE YOU PULL
US OUT OF A
DIVE!

IT APPEARS YOU LEARNED
A LESSON FROM THE
FIRST CRASH THAT BROUGHT
US TOGETHER YEARS AGO,
ACE! IT'S NO MIRACLE, THIS
TIME WE'RE IN ONE PIECE!

CUT OUT THE
SENTIMENT,
PROF! WE'VE
GOT A LIFE TO
SAVE! SO LET'S
START MOVING!





YOU
OKAY,
RED? THIS
JUST
HASN'T
BEEN
YOUR
DAY!

I'LL MAKE
IT! I-JUST
HELP ME
OUT OF
HERE!



WHY DON'T
YOU STAY
BEHIND?
YOU'RE
IN NO
CONDITION--

NOT ON YOUR
LIFE, BUDDY-BOY!
THAT'S MY
BROTHER WE'RE
GOING AFTER--
AND I'M GONNA
BE WITH YOU!

GOOD!
WE'LL
NEED
YOU TO
TELL US
WHAT
TINO
SEES!



SEEMS THEY AREN'T EXPECTING
US YET! THEY'RE STILL JUST
HANGING AROUND, DOIN'
NOTHIN'!



OKAY, LET'S GIVE
THEM SOMETHING TO
DO! MOVE IT OUT,
CHALLS!



AH, OUR RUSE SUCCEEDS! THEY
STILL DO NOT SUSPECT IT WAS
KARNAK WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE
FOR ESTABLISHING THE LINK
BETWEEN THESE MORTALS'
EYES! THEY HAVE BEEN
LURED INTO OUR TRAP!

DO NOT FORGET
THAT IT WAS MADOGA'S
LIGHTNING BOLT
THAT DELIVERED
THEM TO US!



YOUR PLAN HAD BEST WORK...
OR YOU SHALL MEET THE
WRATH OF OM! THE
CHALLENGERS ARE THE
MAJOR THREAT TO MY
SUPREME SCHEME!

HAVE NO FEAR,
MASTER OF THE
NETHERWORLDS! EVEN
NOW, THE JAWS OF
DEATH PREPARE TO SNAP
SHUT ON OUR FOES!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING



I CAN'T CONTINUE
TO DRAW THEM
INTO THIS TRAP!
I'VE GOTTA
HELP! I'VE
GOTTA STOP
LEADING
THEM ON!



YOU SHALL NOT
THWART OUR PLAN,
BOY--YOUR EYE
WILL REMAIN
OPEN!



THEY
APPROACH
THE
CASTLE...

NOW IT IS TIME
FOR THE AWESOME
FORCES OF MADOGA
AGAIN TO COME INTO
PLAY! THE NORTH
WIND SHALL ANSWER
MY CALL!



THE WIND--IT SUDDENLY
CAME FROM NOWHERE...

TH-THANKS FOR THE--
INFO --PROF--



NOW--WHY--
DON'T--YOU--
COME--UP--
WITH--SOME-
THING--TO
MAKE--IT--
STOP!?



DECEMBER, 1968

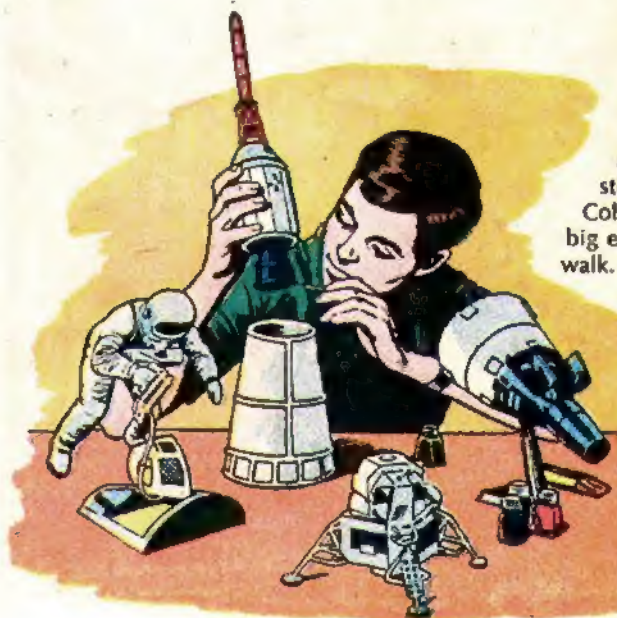
MOON WALK

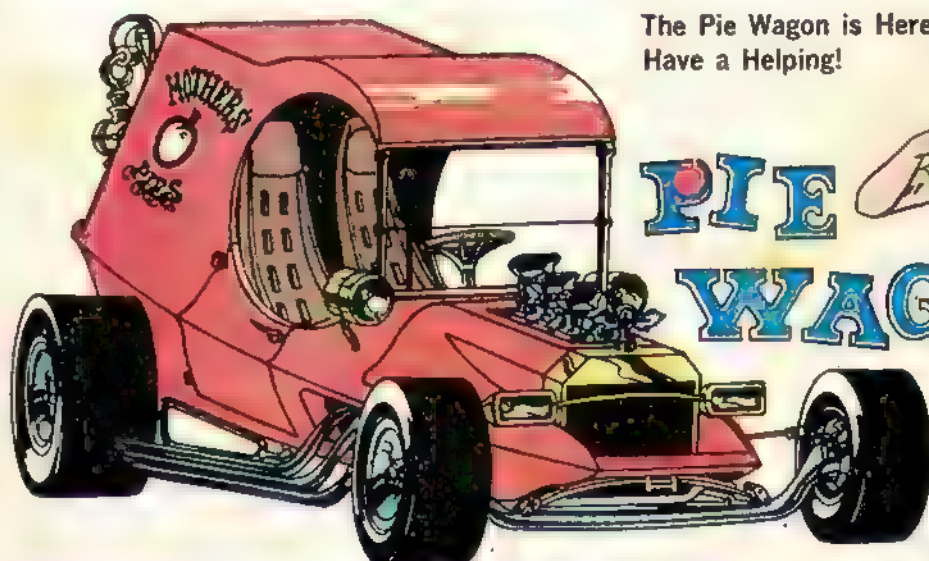
America's space program is rapidly closing in on the big adventure: the walk on the moon. And you can follow it, step-by-step, with Revell's new American Space Program Collector's Set. You can build authentic models of the three big events in space... the orbit, the space walk and the moon walk. The Gemini Spacecraft model includes details like a complete instrument panel. The space-walking Astronaut model is realistic down to moveable face visor. The Apollo model is almost as unbelievable as the program itself. There are five detachable, detailed sections. The Revell Space Program Collector's Set sells for under \$11.00.

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Model of the Month
AMERICAN SPACE-PROGRAM COLLECTOR'S SET





The Pie Wagon is Here!
Have a Helping!



PIE WAGON

The Crazy New
Plastic Truck
Model

ONLY
\$2

A pie hauler can be more fun than pie eating. Just you try it and see. This wild wagon is the newest from Tom Daniel, famous rod and drag designer. It's a clean machine in 1/24 scale.

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Hurry to your favorite store for a Pie Wagon...it's a cherry bomb.

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Monogram Models, Inc.,
Morton Grove, Illinois.

**NEW
FROM D.C.**

**HE'S
COMING
YOUR
WAY!**



**WILL
YOU
MEET
HIM?**

**YOU CAN..
AT YOUR NEWSSTAND
DEC 12TH**

THE **HOODOOED** STAGECOACH!

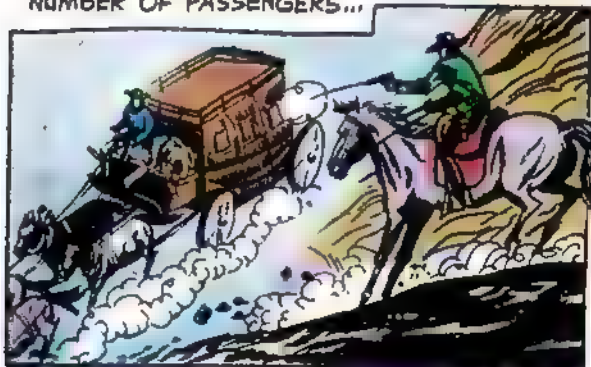
IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA, AT THE CLOSE OF THE LAST CENTURY, A DISMANTLED STAGECOACH STATIONED IN THE BACK YARD OF A LIVERY STABLE WAS THE CENTER OF ATTRACTION OF CURIOUS ONLOOKERS...

THAT COACH WAS HELD UP AND ROBBED MORE OFTEN THAN ANY OTHER COACH IN THE HISTORY OF THE WEST--83 TIMES!

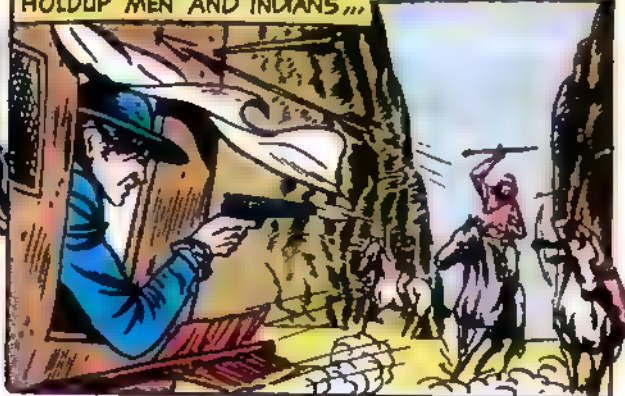
MUST HAVE BEEN A JINX ON IT!



IN THE 1870'S, THIS HANDSOME \$1800 CONCORD COACH WAS THE PRIDE OF THE STAGELINE BETWEEN PRESCOTT AND TOMBSTONE--YET IT WAS FATED TO COST THE LIVES OF 8 DRIVERS, 8 EXPRESS MESSENGERS, AND A NUMBER OF PASSENGERS...



IN THE TWILIGHT OF ITS HECTIC CAREER, IT CARRIED AN ARSENAL OF SHOTGUNS, RIFLES, AND PISTOLS IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO WARD OFF THE NEVER-ENDING WAVE OF ATTACKS BY HOLDUP MEN AND INDIANS...



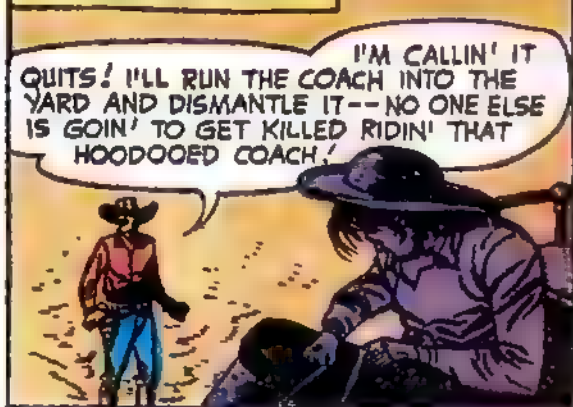
THE SORDID STORY DREW TO A CLOSE IN 1885, FOLLOWING A PARTICULARLY VIOLENT ROBBERY. THE HOLDUP MEN'S FIRST VOLLEY KILLED BOTH THE DRIVER AND MESSENGER AND SENT THE FRIGHTENED HORSES OFF INTO A WILD RUN...

LET IT GO! WHEN WE SHOT THE MESSENGER, HE DROPPED THE MONEY BOX WE'RE AFTER!

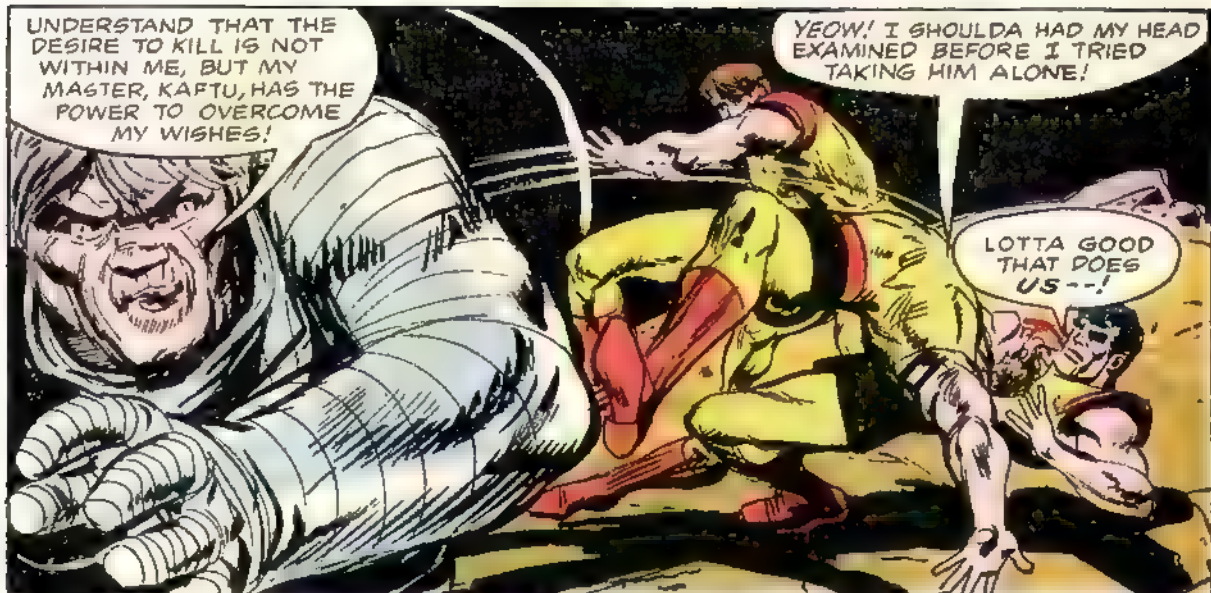


THE TEAM CAME GALLOPING INTO PHOENIX, THE REINS STILL GRIPPED IN THE DEAD DRIVER'S HANDS. INSIDE WERE TWO MORE DEAD PASSENGERS, GRIMLY HANGING ON TO THEIR PISTOLS...

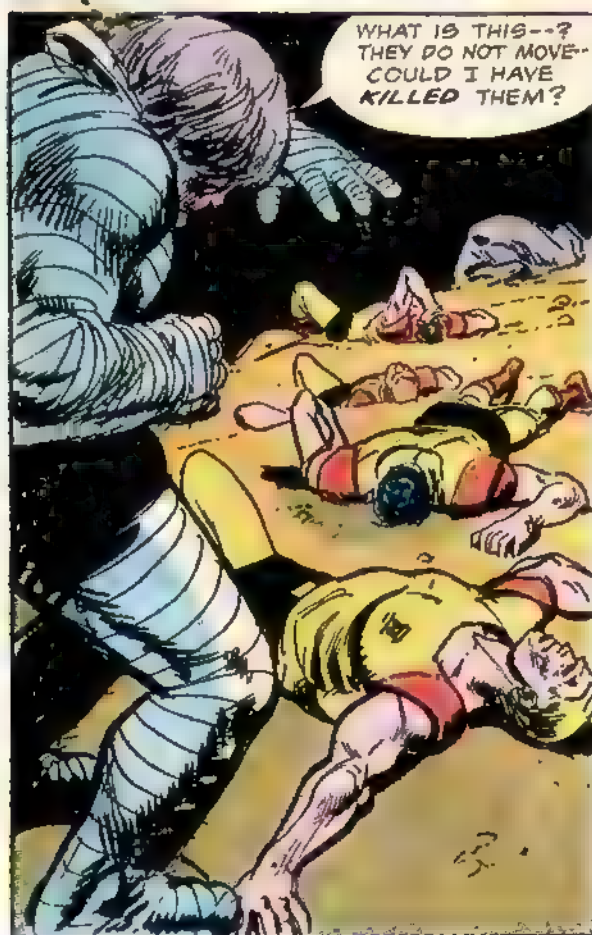
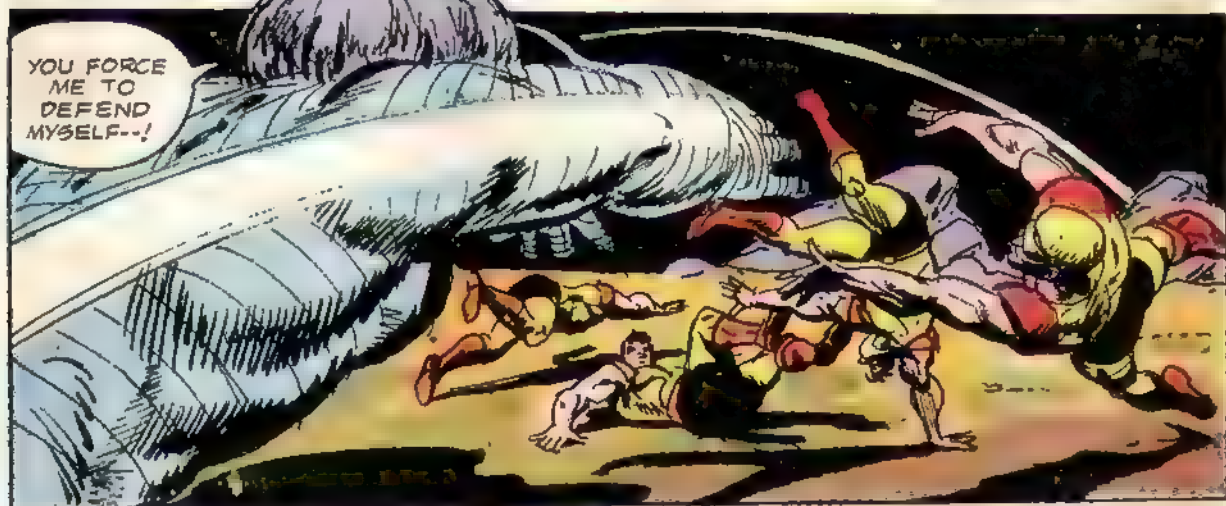
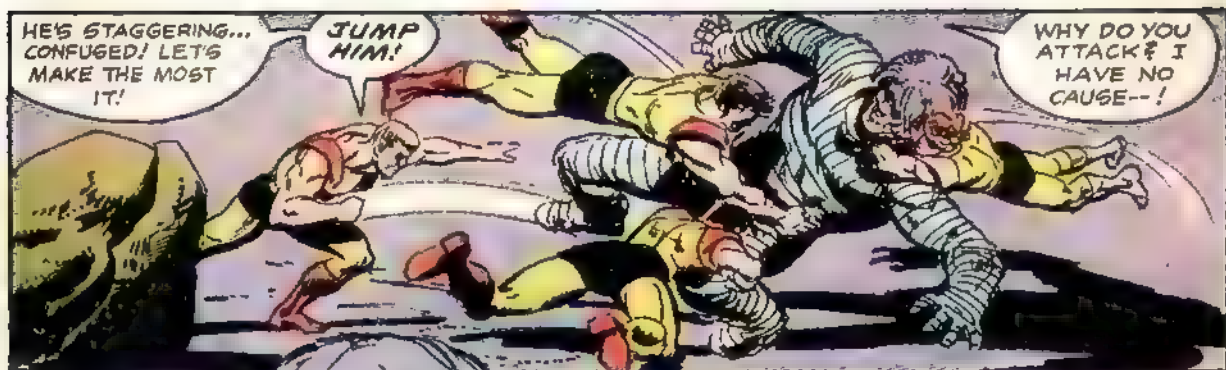
I'M CALLIN' IT QUILTS! I'LL RUN THE COACH INTO THE YARD AND DISMANTLE IT--NO ONE ELSE IS GOIN' TO GET KILLED RIDIN' THAT HOODOOED COACH!













I WAS NOT
MEANT TO
KILL! MY
DEBT OF
HONOR TO
KAFU HAS
BEEN PAID--
WITH
DISHONOR!

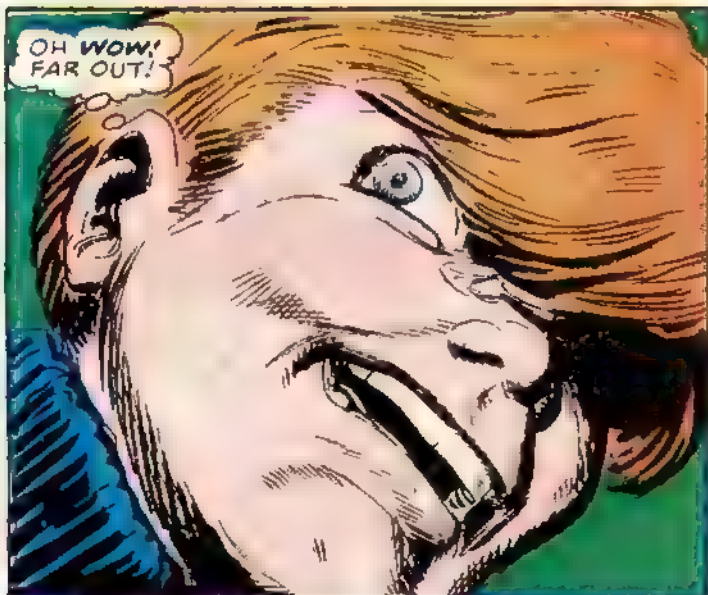


KAFU SHALL PAY
FOR THIS DISHONOR!
NO LONGER SHALL HE
COMMAND TUKAMENON
--FOR HE, TOO, SHALL
JOIN THE RANKS OF
THE DEAD!

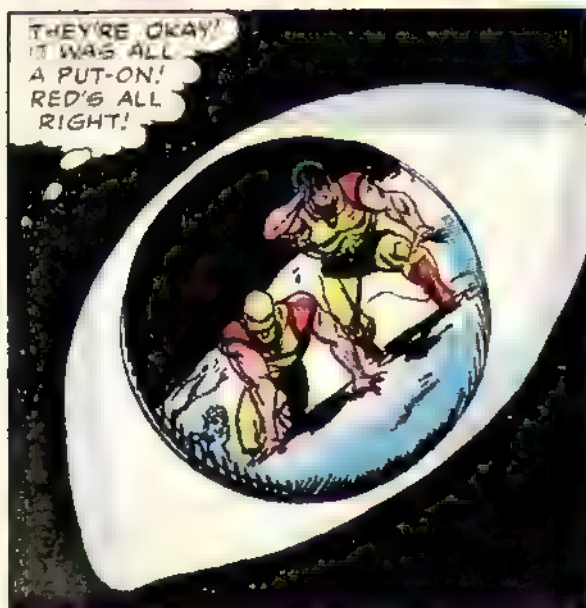


MEANWHILE...

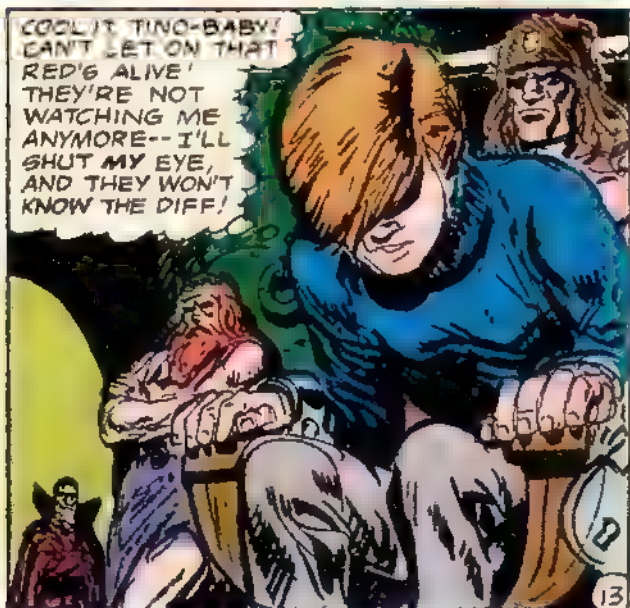
IT'S ALL--M-MY FAULT! I-I'M THE
ONE WHO L-LED YOU H-HERE T-TO
D-DIE, R-RED! IF I EVER GET OUTA
HERE, I'M GONNA GIVE
THESE BUMS...



OH WOW!
FAR OUT!



THEY'RE OKAY!
IT WAS ALL
A PUT-ON!
RED'S ALL
RIGHT!



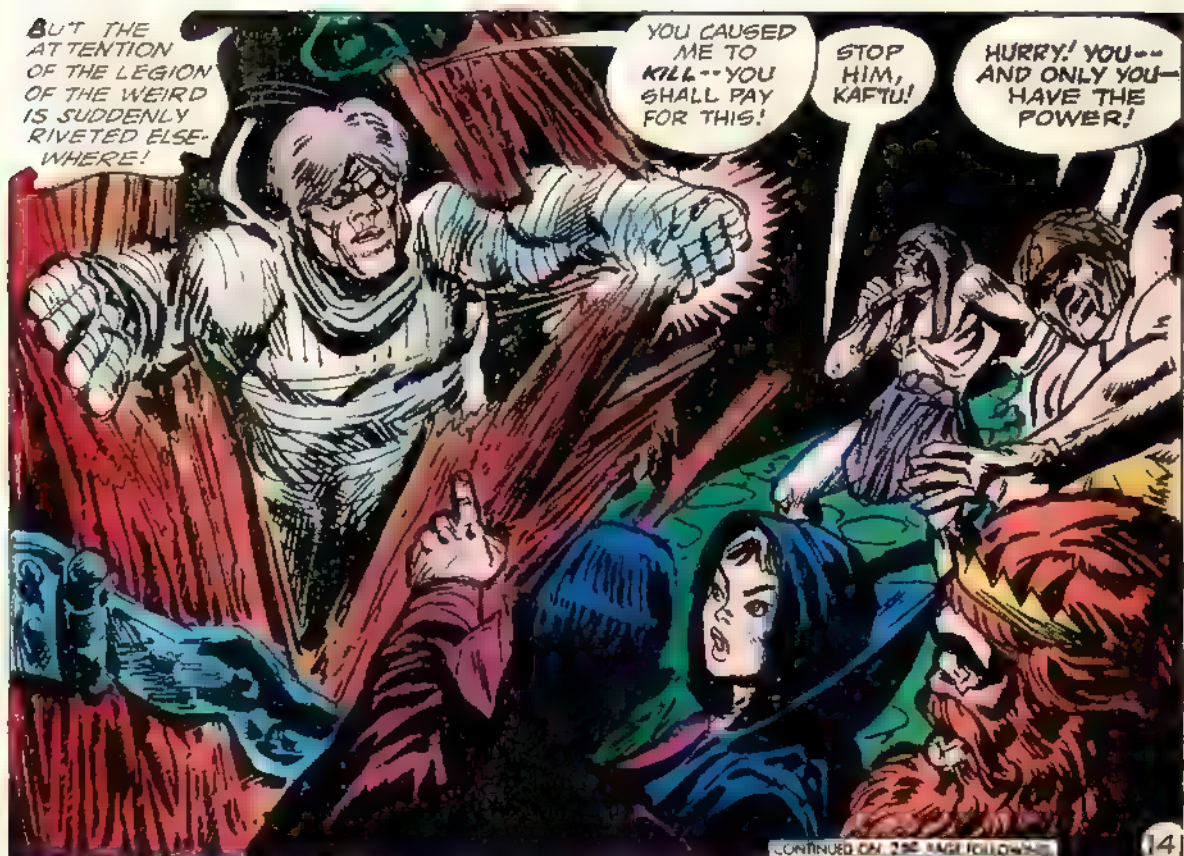
COOL IT TINO-BABY!
CAN'T LET ON THAT
RED'S ALIVE!
THEY'RE NOT
WATCHING ME
ANYMORE-- I'LL
SHUT MY EYE,
AND THEY WON'T
KNOW THE DIFF!

BUT THE
ATTENTION
OF THE LEGION
OF THE WEIRD
IS SUDDENLY
RIVETED ELSE-
WHERE!

YOU CAUSED
ME TO
KILL--YOU
SHALL PAY
FOR THIS!

STOP
HIM,
KAFU!

HURRY! YOU--
AND ONLY YOU--
HAVE THE
POWER!



CONTINUED ON THE PAGE FOLLOWING

14

NOW ON TV.!

**EVERY
SATURDAY**

SEE THE

**BATMAN-
SUPERMAN
HOUR!**

**BATMAN,
ROBIN & BATGIRL
VS JOKER, PENGUIN,
RIDDLER**
and others.

AND

**EVERY
SUNDAY**

WATCH THE

**AQUAMAN
SHOW**

WITH

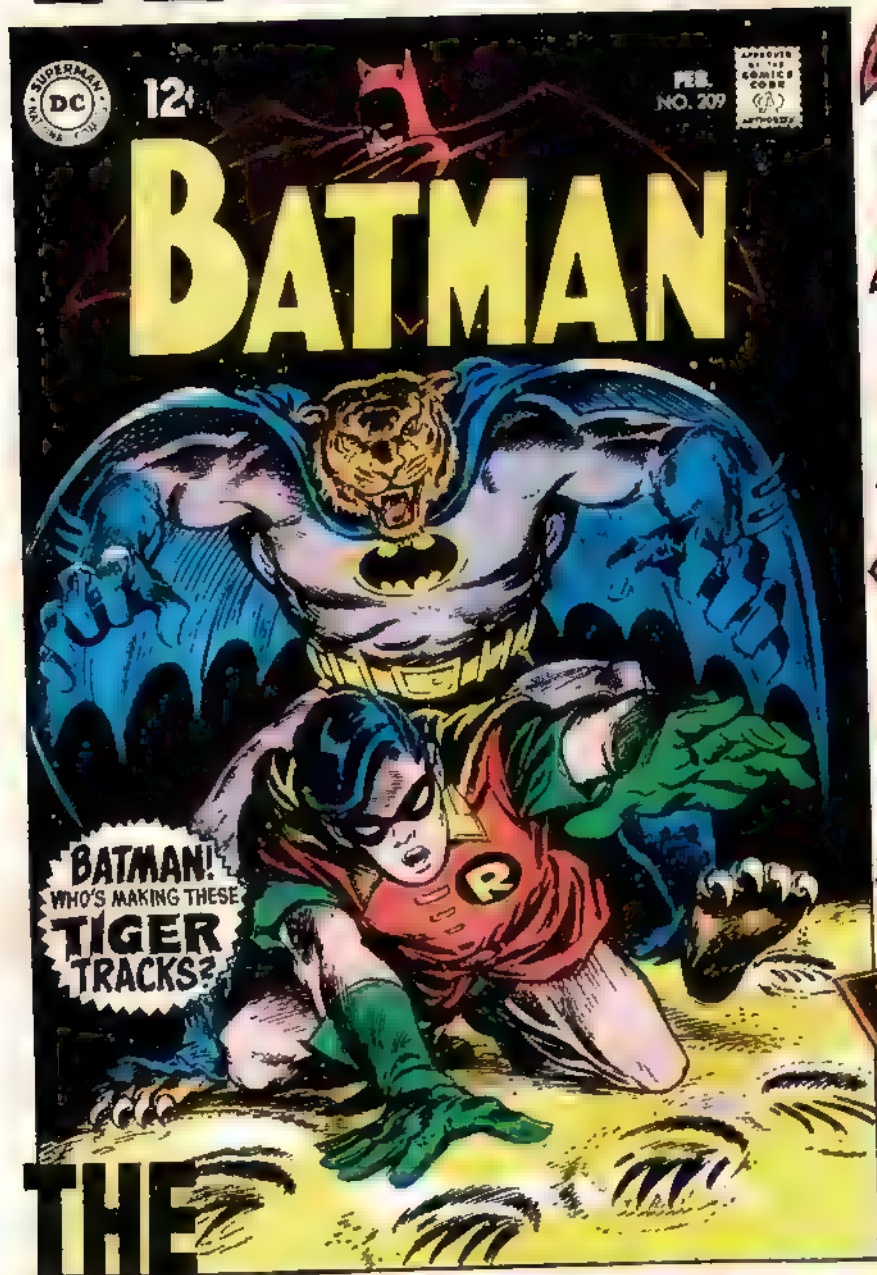
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Mera AND Tuskyl!**

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SUSPENSEFUL, THRILLING
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ROBIN



B E F A R

ON
SALE

DEC.
5th

THE TALE OF THE TIGER

**HALT! BY THE
SACRED EYE OF
OSIRIS, I
COMMAND YOU--
HALT!**



NO LONGER DOES
THE RUBY OR YOU
HOLD SWAY
OVER ME!



ITS HYPNOTIC
EFFECT HAS
CEASED TO
EXIST! THE
CHALLENGERS!
THEY WRECKED
MY SCHEME
WITH AN
X-RAY
DEVICE!

THIS IS FINISHED
THE SINGLE HOLD
YOU HAD OVER ME--
AND THUS SHALL
I CRUSH THINE
OWN BODY,
MY FORMER
MASTER!



NAY, YOU SHALL NOT HARM OUR EGYPTIAN BROTHER! I, HORDRED, CONTROL THE VERY CASTLE ITSELF!



MY FEUD IS NOT WITH YOU, DRUID! DO NOT PROVOKE TUKAMENON, SON OF THE NILE GODS! MY CONCERN IS WITH KAFTU, ALONE!



YOU HAVE FORCED ME TO KILL! THUS SHALL I HAVE MY REVENGE...



...BY FORCING THE VERY BREATH FROM YOUR LUNGS!





THE NIGHT OF MADOGA SHALL NOT FAIL YOU, EGYPTIAN ALLY! EVEN IN THE MIDST OF NIGHT, I CAN COMMAND THE MOON-BEAMS TO BLAZE WITH THE HEAT OF DAY!

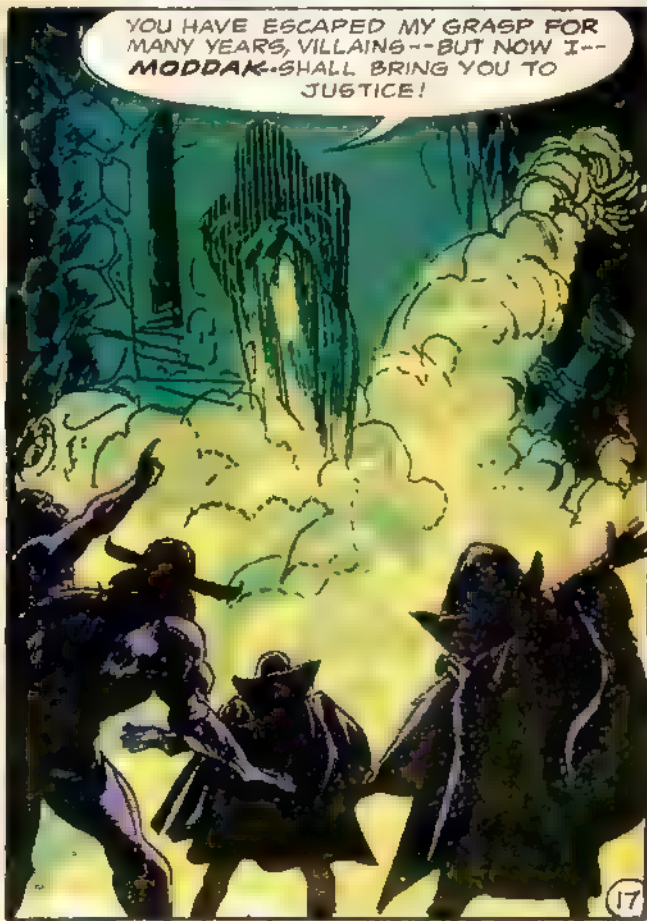


AND NOW WITH THIS ANCIENT BLADE, OUR FOE SHALL MEET HIS END!

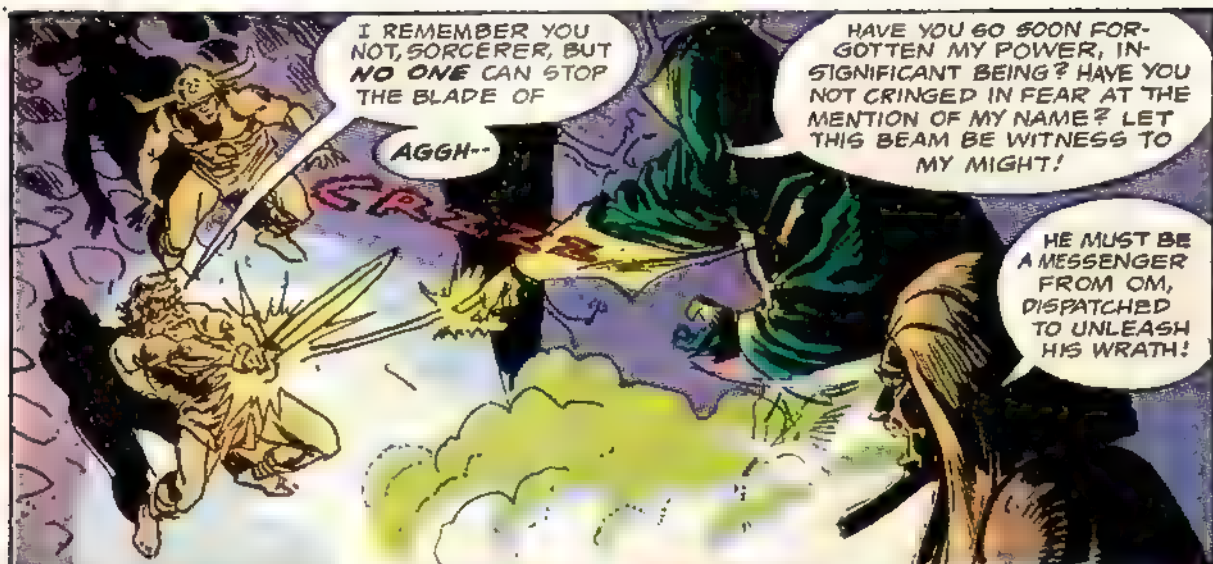


I HAVE CLEAVED THE VERY HILLS OF DOVER-- YOUR HEAD SHALL PROVE NO--

STOP, DRUID!



YOU HAVE ESCAPED MY GRASP FOR MANY YEARS, VILLAINS--BUT NOW I-- MODDAK-SHALL BRING YOU TO JUSTICE!



I REMEMBER YOU NOT, SORCERER, BUT NO ONE CAN STOP THE BLADE OF

AGGH--

HAVE YOU GO SOON FORGOTTEN MY POWER, INSIGNIFICANT BEING? HAVE YOU NOT CRINGED IN FEAR AT THE MENTION OF MY NAME? LET THIS BEAM BE WITNESS TO MY MIGHT!

HE MUST BE A MESSENGER FROM OM, DISPATCHED TO UNLEASH HIS WRATH!



LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME HELP, BOYS!

I'LL FREE TINO!

THE CHALLS! HOO-BOY! WHAT KINDA BAG IS THIS? FIRST THIS WEIRDO SHOWS UP AND MAKES LIKE HE'S ON OUR SIDE, AND NOW RED AND HIS BUDDY-BOYS MAKE THE SCENE -- BUT WHERE'S PROF?



THE CHALLENGERS -- ALIVE?

YOU-- YOU ONLY KILLED PROF! YOU UNDERSTAND-- YOU KILLED PROF!

THEN I HAVE SHED BLOOD!

YOU BET YOU DID-- AND YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR IT!

PROF...DEAD?

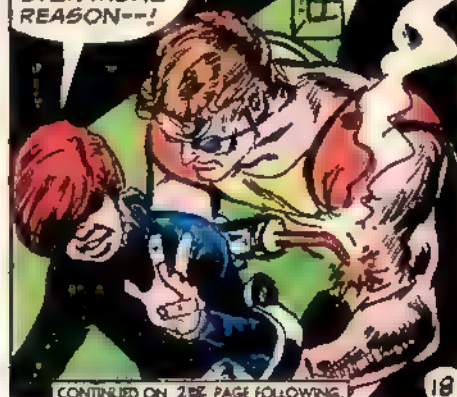
OH, NO! THEN IT WASN'T ALL A PUT-ON!



ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE, BIG BROTHER! I'VE BEEN ITCHIN' FOR A FRACTION OF THE ACTION...

DON'T GO INTO A FLAP, KID STUFF! AFTER WE CREAM THE LEGION, WE'LL STILL HAVE THIS NEW CREEP-- MODDAK-- ON OUR HANDS... AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF POWERS HE'S GOT ON HIS FLIP SIDE!

AND WITH PROF ZAPPED, THERE'S EVEN MORE REASON--!



CONTINUED ON ZEE PAGE FOLLOWING.



80 pg. GIANT 65¢

NO. 203 MAR 25¢



SGT. ROCK'S PRIZE BATTLE TALES



THE
BIG ONE
IS HERE!

IT EXPLODES
ON SALE
DEC. 10th



GET A MOVE ON, CHALLS! WITH PROF OUT OF THE PICTURE, WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US--USE TEAMWORK!

I DIG, DADDIO! I'LL DO MY BEST TO MAKE UP FOR PROF!

WE'VE CAUGHT THEM SO OFF-GUARD, THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S COMING OFF!



I'LL TAKE THE HIGH ROAD--

AND I'LL TAKE THE LOW!



YOU HAVE CAUGHT HORDRED UNPREPARED, BUT MY POWER IS NOT IN MAGIC ALONE! MY STRENGTH IS LIKEWISE AWE-INSPIRING!

WHERE WENT THE TEAMWORK, ACE? NOW I'VE...



...GOT TO HANDLE HIM...



THWOCK

...ALL BY MYSELF!



K-KEEP
H-HIM
A-AWAY
FR-FROM
M-ME!

DO NOT
CRINGE!
MADOGA
SHALL
CRUSH
OUR
FOE
WITH--

YOU SHALL
CRUSH **NO ONE!**
KAFTU HAD
COMMANDED ME
TO KILL--AND
YOU SHALL NOT
STOP ME FROM
THE REVENGE
THIS DISHONOR
DEMANDS!



UHHH!



NOW, MY FORMER MASTER,
NONE SHALL SEPARATE
YOU FROM YOUR JUST
DOOM!



I MUST ESCAPE!
NO TIME TO
WORK UP A
SPELL TO
COMBAT
THEM!

DO YOU THINK
FLIGHT
WILL GRANT
YOU
SAFETY,
WITCH?



THE LIGHT--
BLINDING
ME--!



THERE WAS
SOMETHING
SUSPICIOUS
ABOUT THAT
LIGHT!
'T WAS NO
MAGICAL
EFFECT!

A SIMPLE
INCANTATION
WILL REVEAL
THE TRUTH!

BY THE VEILED HEAVEN'S EYES,
PIERCE THROUGH THIS
STRANGER'S GUISE!



AH, BUT I
WAS CORRECT!
HE FEIGNED
THE ROLE
OF A
SORCERER!

PROF--!
HE'S
ALIVE!
AIN'T
THIS
THE
WILDEST!

UH-OH!
LOOKS
LIKE
WE'VE
BEEN
FOUND
OUT!



SEE, TUKAMENON,
O MIGHTY ENVOY
OF THE PHARAONS!
OBSERVE HOW
YOU HAVE BEEN
TRICKED!



YOU SHALL
OBEY MY
COMMANDS,
AGAIN!

CRUSH THE
CHALLENGERS
LIKE THE
LOWLY DESERT
ANT! ANNIHILATE
THESE FEEBLE
MORTALS!



YOU NEED BUT TO STRIKE
A SINGLE BLOW...FOR YOU
HAVE BEEN ENDOWED WITH
THE HAND OF DEATH!



ARRRGH!
NO, I AM NO
LONGER YOUR
MURDEROUS
VASSAL! I AM
RELEASED FROM
BONDAGE! WITH-
OUT YOUR ACCURSED
RUBY, YOU NO
LONGER CONTROL
ME, CAN IMPOSE
YOUR WILL ON ME!

YOU CANNOT
MAKE ME
KILL, KAFU!
YOUR OWN,
VERY SECONDS
ARE NUMBERED!



NO! HALT!
STOP IN
THE NAME
OF--!

BUT THE
WORDS
JAM IN
HIS THROAT.
KAFU
ISSUES A
FAINT
SOUND...
A GASP...
THEN HE
IS STILL
FOREVER.

SUDDENLY, COLD SILENCE KNIFES THROUGH THE CAVERNOUS CHAMBER... PUNCTUATED BY A SHRILL WAIL...

WHAT MADNESS IS THIS? TO HAVE BEEN BESTED BY MY OWN WRATH? TO HAVE KILLED TO STOP FROM KILLING? WHAT CODE, WHAT KIND OF HONOR IS THIS?

ALREADY I FEEL THE LIFE-FORCE OF RA LEAVING ME!

AS IT HAS BEEN ORDAINED THROUGH THE AGES, THE PRICE OF MURDER... IS... DEATH...

TIMBER-R-R!

HE'S DEAD-- AGAIN-- FOR ALL TIME! THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO COMMAND HIM, AND WHATEVER GAVE HIM LIFE BEFORE IS GONE!

CUT THE COMMENTS! THE LEGION ISN'T NEAR KAPUT YET, BUT WE'LL BE IF WE DON'T START SWINGING!

HELP US, O OM! THIS HUMBLE DISCIPLE BESEECHES THEE TO DELIVER US FROM THE FOES WHO WOULD ASSAULT US!

VERY WELL-- DESPITE YOUR FAILURE, I SHALL AID YOU--

KNOW THIS WELL, CHALLENGERS-- YOU HAVE THWARTED MY PLAN THIS TIME! BUT I SHALL RETURN-- AND OM DOES NOT FAIL TWICE!

EVERYTHING SWIRLING...

WILLYA LOOK AT THAT! EVERYTHING'S GONE. JUST DISAPPEARED IN A PUFF OF SMOKE!

THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE LEGION OF THE WEIRD WON'T BE BACK SOME DAY! REMEMBER OM'S THREAT-- WE'LL HAVE TO BE ON GUARD!

OKAY, NOW--LET'S GET THE SHOW BACK ON THE ROAD!

WE JUST WITNESSED A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF EVIL DESTROYING ITSELF! KAFTU WAS ELIMINATED BY HIS OWN "CREATION"--TUKAMENON--WHILE THE MUMMY WAS FELLE BY HIS OWN WRONG ACT!

HEY BIG BROTHER--RED! SOMETHING JUST GRABBED ME! I DON'T SEE WHAT YOU DO ANY MORE!

NEITHER DO I!

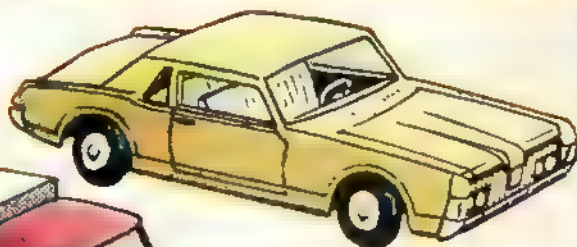
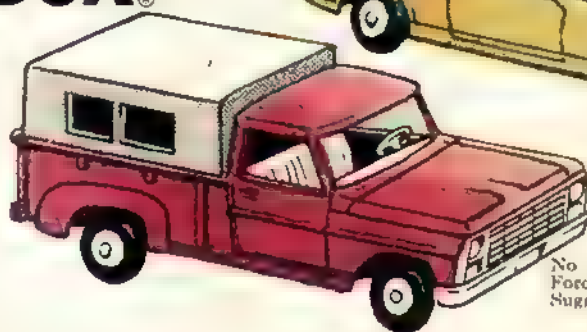
IT WAS THAT CAT KARNAK! WHEN HE TOOK A POWDER, THE SPELL HE MUST'VE CAST BETWEEN US WENT WITH HIM!

MAN, AM I GLAD THAT FREAKY BUSINESS IS OVER WITH!

MORE IMPORTANT, TINO--YOU'RE SAFE! ANY ONE OF US WOULD'VE GIVEN MORE THAN AN EYE--EVEN HIS LIFE--TO MAKE SURE OF THAT!

23

NEW "MATCHBOX" MODELS OF THE MONTH.



No. 62
Mercury Cougar
Suggested Retail--\$54

No. 6
Ford Pickup
Suggested Retail--\$54

ANYTHING THOSE BIG DETROIT GUYS DO, "MATCHBOX" DOES SMALLER. Check out the new Mercury Cougar and Ford Pickup. These two really look like the real thing. Only smaller. Parts really move. Doors open. The tires even have a tread. These two new models are ready to roll now. And to really be a "MATCHBOX" expert, write for free catalogue.

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LET'S CHAT WITH THE CHALLS

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National Periodicals
575 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022



Dear Editor:

Have just finished reading No. 64's "Invitation to a Hanging." I couldn't resist writing to congratulate you on a story well done. The plot was so terrific, I just had to know the name of the author. Joe Kubert's blending of raw realism and symbolism on the cover resulted in an equally superior job. The Challengers' origin in "The Secret of the Sorcerer's Box" appeared in the first Secret Origins Annual, but I'm delighted to know the two concluding chapters will appear in the subsequent issue. That was good, smart thinking, keeping us in suspense until we could latch onto the wind-up.

Steve Foster, Worcester, Mass.

For the record, and we apologize for the omission, the yarn was scripted by Bob Kanigher, who performed a similar chore for the upcoming "Devil's Circus" and "The Dream Killers." In dividing "The Secrets of the Sorcerer's Box" into two installments, our intent wasn't to trap our readers into buying the next issue. Perish the thought! The first Showcase masterpiece ran 24 pages, and natch, it was impossible to do anything but what we did. — Ed.

Dear Editor:

As a recent CHALLENGERS convert and comic mag collector, I've regretted the opportunity to snare a copy of their dramatic debut. Now, thanks to No. 64, abruptly and astonishingly, my wish has been fulfilled. I'm sure that other fans join me in requesting that you again publish previous stories.

Richie Davoli, Albany, N.Y.

Much as we'd like to, we'll reprint CHALLENGER classics only and if the occasion warrants. In this case, we assumed our fans would appreciate viewing them in their pounding, pulsating premiere. — Ed.

CHALLS CHIT-CHAT: "Why do you always have to pick on Red?" wails James Lampton of Long Beach, Calif. "First you kill him, then bring him back, and now you remove one of his eyes. Please find a way to restore his full sight." (Relax, Jim. We're not planning to disable him any more, and even with one eye ol' Carrot-Top can sock it to 'em better than most men with two. Will he be given another, normal eye? Stick with us and see! — Ed.) . . . Aside to Harold Warren of Elmont, N.Y.; Bev Kirkham of Puyallup, Wash.; Kay Woo, Belzoni, Miss.; Vicki Moots, Dayton, O.; the ever-writin' Tony Isabella from Cleveland, O., and the horde of semi-hysterical fans who snowed us under with a barrage of mail demanding to know Tino's fate after he'd been snatched by the Legion of the Weird, we had to delay the outcome. Most continuing stories run consecutively in other mags, and as we did in Nos. 62 and 63,

but in this case we wanted to heighten the suspense. In addition, our Challengers, as much as they'd have liked roaring to his rescue, had to resolve some sudden, urgent crises with Dr. Dread and Prof. Hemlock. — Ed.).

"If plans ever materialize to print an Annual, here are my top 10," offers Mark Evanier of Los Angeles. "The Sorcerers of Forbidden Valley," "Creatures from the Forbidden World," "Return of Multi-Man," "The Challengers Die at Dawn," "War Between the Challenger Teams," "The Sinister Sponge-Man," "Twilight of the Challengers," "Smash the Sponge-Man, or Die," "Taps for Red," and "License to Kill." Any law in the office against adding a new member to the Challengers' roster?" (No law, Mark, but what could a newcomer do that our boys already can't handle? At any rate, who can predict the future? — Ed.)

"Don't give them weapons, but do give the Challengers their former 45s," pleads Ken Belden of Sylmar, Calif. (So far, they've been doing very well without them, and besides you know the tense climate of the country regarding guns? — Ed.) . . . Personal to Earl B. Bruce of Washington, D.C.: We're breathlessly awaiting your epic account describing how you became a death-cheater. — Ed. . . . "In order to have a total eye transplant, wouldn't the patient have had the entire area around his eye cut open?" asks Vici Anderson from Sarasota, Fla. "I think he would because of the optic nerve which is in back of the eye and goes all the way back to the brain. But you showed Tino without even a scratch when the doctor removed his dressing." (You're right about the connection to the optic nerve, but we honestly don't know the procedure used by the surgeon. After all, he admitted this operation never had been tried before. Anyway, he was a skillful sawbones, and Tino may have had some plastic surgery immediately after the operation. — Ed.)

"After reading No. 62's 'Legion of the Weird,' I suddenly had the urge to grab every CHALLENGERS that was ever printed. I decided to start collecting them immediately. Do you sell back issues by mail?" asks Dave Wargo of San Francisco. (As we've said a number of times, back issues are no longer available here, but we've relayed your request to a collector's source that may be helpful. Anyone who has a similar interest should send us his name and address, mentioning the specific issues, on a post card. — Ed.) . . . "May I demand, as do so many others, that you give us an 80-page Giant featuring the Challengers' early senses-staggering adventures?" insists Kirk Novakow of Morton, Ill. "I'd like to see reprints of the good old days before No. 40." (Thanks for joining the chorus, Kirk. We've made a pile of your pleas for the Front Office and can only stand by for a decision. — Ed.)

DON'T BE LEFT OUT



Leave it to



IN THE

12c

MAR.
NO. 63

Binky

Brrr! BINKY!
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU TOLD ME
MY OUTFIT WOULD
B-BE W-W-WARM
ENOUGH!

HEH...
HEH...
HEH!



C
O
L
D!

warm up with
AND HIS GAL
Peggy

Binky

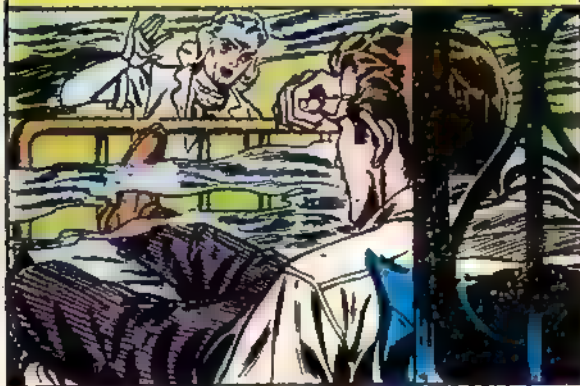
ON SALE
DEC. 10th

SAVED by A DREAM

MR. SIMPSON WAS TIRED AS HE CHECKED IN AT THE ROOMING HOUSE ON WEST 60TH STREET IN JANUARY, 1906. ONCE IN HIS ROOM, HE JUST DROPPED HIS THINGS AND PLOPPED DOWN ON THE BED. AS HE DOZED OFF, HE WAS DIMLY AWARE OF A FAINT ODOR OF GAS, BUT PAID IT LITTLE HEED, SINCE, IN THOSE DAYS THERE USUALLY WAS A MINOR GAS LEAK SOMEWHERE.



SOON, HE WAS AWAKENED BY HIS MOTHER STANDING AT THE FOOT OF HIS BED! "YOU MUST GET UP, OR YOU WILL SURELY DIE," SHE SAID! HE WAS SO DROWSY, HE REGISTERED NO SURPRISE, EVEN THOUGH HIS MOTHER HAD BEEN DEAD FOR SEVERAL YEARS!... HE FELL BACK TO SLEEP!



A SECOND TIME HE WAS AWAKENED... "GET UP OR YOU WILL SURELY DIE!" THIS TIME SHE HAD A RED CROSS ON HER FOREHEAD, WHICH SERVED TO STARTLE MR. SIMPSON INTO CONSCIOUSNESS! A MOMENT LATER, HE WAS STRUGGLING THROUGH A GAS-FILLED ROOM TO ITS ONLY WINDOW! WEAKLY, HE TORE AT THE JAMMED PANEL! THEN, HE COLLAPSED, STRIKING HIS HEAD AS HE FELL!



SEVERAL HOURS LATER, HE CAME TO, AND STAGGERED TO HIS FEET! THE ROOM NO LONGER SMELLED OF GAS AND THE WALL JET WAS CLOSED, BUT HE HAD AN UGLY GASH ON HIS FOREHEAD! APPARENTLY, HE HAD STRUCK HIS HEAD ON THE GAS SPIGOT AND LUCKILY SHUT IT OFF, THEREBY SAVING HIS LIFE!



"OR DID MY MOTHER SHUT IT OFF FOR ME?" HE WONDERED. TO THIS DAY, HE IS NOT CERTAIN... DID HE DREAM THAT HE SAW HIS MOTHER...? YET, SHE HAD SEEMED SO VIVIDLY REAL!

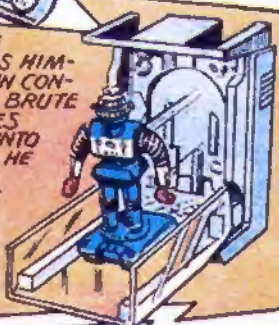
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THEIR MASTERS --
YOU!

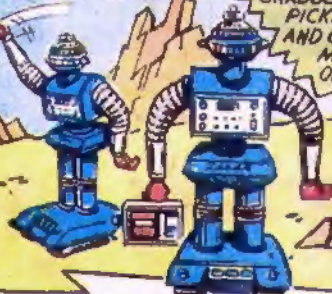
**ZERAK, THE BLUE
DESTROYER, FREES HIM-
SELF FROM HIS OWN CON-
TROL STATION. HIS BRUTE
STRENGTH FORCES
THE EXIT RAMP INTO
POSITION, AND HE
EMERGES WITH
FIGHTING FISTS
READY FOR
ACTION !!!**



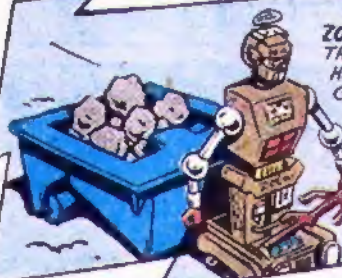
**EACH ZEROID COMES WITH THESE
EXTRAS:**

THE ACTION-
HAND THAT
THROWS
LASER
BOMBS.

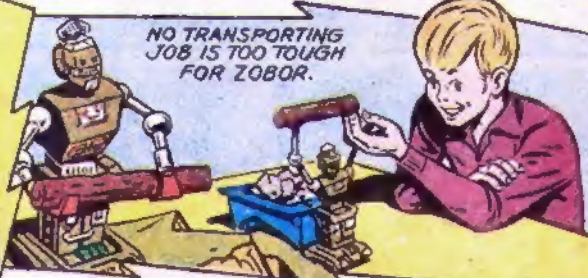
THE MAGNETIC
GRABBER THAT
PICKS UP
AND CARRIES
METAL
OBJECTS.



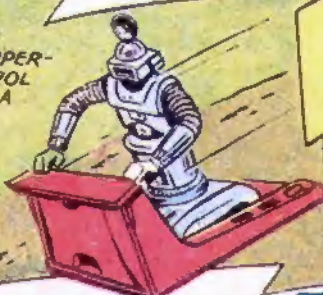
**ZOBOR, THE BRONZE
TRANSPORT ROBOT,
HAS SPECIAL-DUTY
GRABBING-HOOKS.
HIS CONTROL
STATION BECOMES
A COSMOBILE
FOR HAULING
HEAVY
LOADS.**



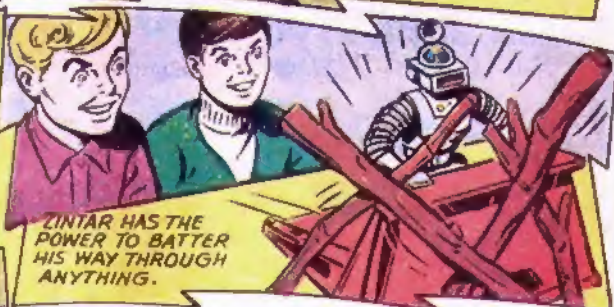
**NO TRANSPORTING
JOB IS TOO TOUGH
FOR ZOBOR.**



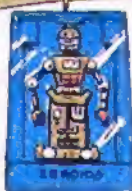
**ZINTAR, THE SILVER
EXPLORER, IS GRIPPER-
FISTED, HIS CONTROL
STATION BECOMES A
DRAMATIC LUNAR
SLED THAT
MOBILIZES HIM
FOR ACTION.**



**ZINTAR HAS THE
POWER TO BATTER
HIS WAY THROUGH
ANYTHING.**



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LAUNCH, TRANSPORT, FIGHT--ANYTHING !!!**



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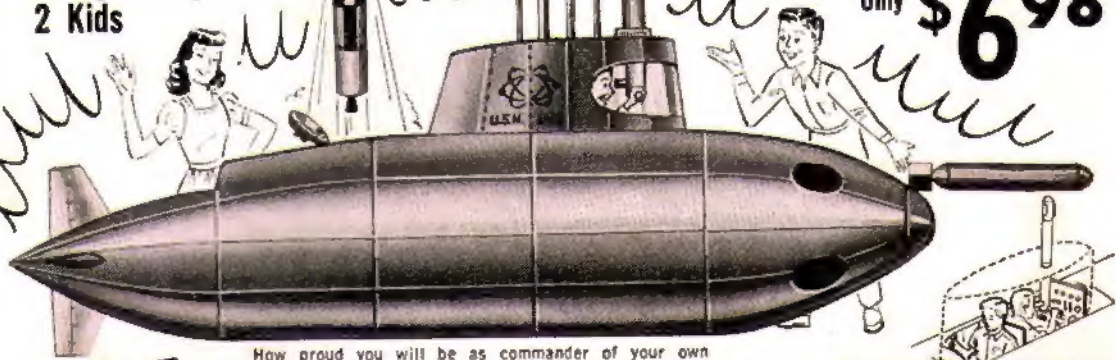
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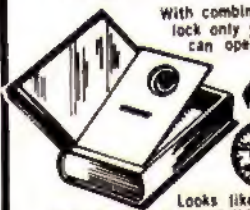
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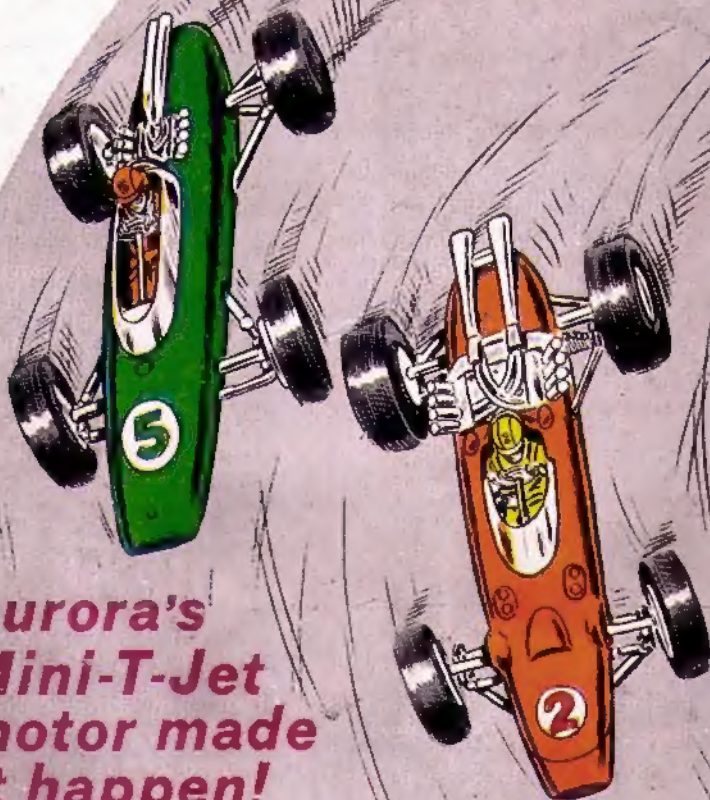
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